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GOVERNOR MUSGROVE BALANCES STATE BUDGET

(Jackson, MS) – For the third straight year, Governor Ronnie Musgrove has balanced the state's budget. The 2003 Fiscal Year, which ended yesterday, has been balanced without raising taxes, depleting the rainy day fund or cutting critical services. Once again, Governor Musgrove has used conservative fiscal policies and practices to ensure that our state remains fiscally sound.

"Our state has felt the effects of the national recession," said Musgrove. "However, we have continued to use sound and conservative fiscal policies in managing our state's resources. The result is a balanced budget without raising taxes."

Many states across the country have resorted to raising taxes, laying off employees, shortening schools weeks and releasing prisoners to balance their budgets. Mississippi balanced its budgets for the past three years by setting priorities and sticking to them and through conservative fiscal policies.

Trends in tax collection indicate signs of recovery for the national recession. In addition, the state budgets will begin to see returns on our investments in Nissan, Howard Industries, Northrop Grumman and the thousands of other job opportunities created over the last three years.

"Because of conservative fiscal policies, Mississippi has been weathering the national recession better than most," Musgrove stated. "Now that we are seeing some positive movement in our economy, we will be ahead of the curve coming out of these tough economic times."

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